

I support media diversity

I am writing to you today to comment on Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules. In its goals to promote competition, diversity and localism in today's media market, I strongly believe that the FCC should retain all of the current media ownership rules now in question. These rules serve the public interest by limiting the market power of already huge companies in the broadcast industry.

We are on the verge of going to war largely because our media now is owned by a handful of corporations that have a vested interest in the defence industry (such as GE & Westinghouse). These corporations can control the content of the news that reaches the American people. If the majority of the people knew what was really going on the support for this war would be even further reduced. It is a crime that Americans have to get the news from outside of this country or from independent news sources to get the REAL story.

Please do not allow further erosion of our First Amendment rights by allowing more deregulation of the FCC. Our democracy is at stake!

The right to carry on informed debate and discussion of current events is part of the founding philosophy of our nation. Our forefathers believed that democracy was best served by a diverse marketplace of ideas. If the FCC allows our media outlets to merge, our ability to have open, informed discussion with a wide variety of viewpoints will be compromised.

The public interest will best be served by preserving media ownership rules in question in this proceeding.

I applaud Michael Copps and John Adelstein for coming to Seattle to hear the concerns of the people. Sitting in DC listening to those with financial interests in further deregulation is not serving the needs of the citizens of this "democratic" nation. I think it is important for the FCC to not only consider the points of view of those with a financial interest in this issue, but also those with a social or civic interest.

With the serious impact these rule changes will have on our democracy, it is incumbent on the Commission to take the time to review these issues more thoroughly and allow the American people to have a meaningful say in the process.

Thank you,

[Candice Cosler]